TALON

NEWS MAGAZINE

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VOLUME XVII ISSUE VI

TALON
NEWS MAGAZINE

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IN THIS ISSUE
KAYLE WALKER

In this issue of the Talon, you will find many familiar articles you may have become accustom to last semester. In our campus section, we cover a few of the student organizations on campus. If you have time on your hands, the right organization may be waiting for you behind these pages. We also discuss the remolding of Foyle Hall. Be sure to check out the calendar for campus events and your chance for some FREE stuff. Also read about the illegal downloading going on around campus, find out how to register your phone for Avila updates via text message, and much more.

Our feature this issue is about the exhibit at Union Station "A Blessing to One Another." Find out how one journalist's interview turned into an up-close-and-personal lunch with Avila University President Ron Slepitza, Dr. James Buchanan, and Rabbi Abie Ingber

In our A&E section, get the latest on Avila's upcoming performance, *Piece of My Heart*, as well as a cd review on artist Adam McInnis and a movie review on Pink Panther 2. Curious as to where your money is going when you visit Power and Light? The answer will surprise you. Also, be sure to check out fashionista Ricky Davis' new fashion column.

Our sports section will give you a preview on men's baseball, an update on men's and women's basketball, and will reveal the results of the cheer and dance team at Nationals.

In our political section enjoy another he said, she said debate on global warming. Also, get the perspectives of two journalists on Obama's inauguration.

February also celebrates Black History Month. In this issue Black Student Union contributed to the Talon with original poetry and biographies on BSU's members.

Also do not forget to submit your answers to the photo contest on the backpage. The first to get the answers correct gets a $10 gift card to any KC Hopps restaurant. How can you beat free?

Spring break is in our near future, so stay focused and enjoy this issue of the Talon!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT
Nicole Drew

Each issue, we are dedicating a small section to profile a member of the Talon Team. This issue we are honoring Nicole Drew. Nicole is a first year student majoring in Radiological science with a minor in Advertisement and Public Relations. She enjoys writing for the Talon because she loves having the opportunity to share her thoughts and ideas with the community. Her favorite section of the Talon is A&E because those are the things she is most interested in.

When Nicole isn't working on the Talon she plays violin in the Northland Symphony Orchestra and works on her Ford Falcon with her dad, which they plan to drag race in the summer.

Nicole's favorite book is *Pride and Prejudice*. She couldn't narrow her favorite song down because it changes based on her mood, but one of her current favorites is "Chasing Pavements" by Adele. As for a favorite movie, she loves "The Goonies."

After graduation, Nicole plans on being a NUC Med Tech and hopes to own a small photography business on the side. Nicole has many skills that are utilized throughout the Talon and will be a major contributor for the next three years.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Talon News Magazine is produced by the students of Avila University. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the TALON NEWS staff, the Trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the University. The Talon News Magazine encourages letters to the editor. These may be submitted electronically, or in writing and should include the writer's name, address, and telephone numbers for verification purposes. Letters can be mailed to the TALON News Magazine Editor, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. 64145. The Talon reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language. Copies of the Talon News Network Operational Guidelines may be requested by writing to the above referenced address.

IF YOU SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR WE DO HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH IT!

JOIN THE TALON TEAM

We're always looking to expand our Talon team. If you are interested in writing stories, taking pictures, or page layout, please feel free to contact me. Additionally, we also appreciate any feedback, good or bad.
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Remodeling the House of God
Ben Kopp

Exciting Changes

Some people walk into Foyle Hall for either the Department of Education or the Department of Psychology; others enter the building to worship God in the chapel. After the first or maybe second glance, a wandering worshipper might not find it hard to believe the chapel has not been under construction in about forty years. The current structure only allows a limited amount of change to the current setup: the organ has been sitting in the chapel only to be used once or twice per year over the course of the last decade, and the red carpeting is often seen as something that should be reserved for specific liturgical seasons. With these reasons in mind, a vision was created to completely renovate the chapel both inside and out.

According to Avila University President Ron Slepitza, great care went into the new plans for the chapel to ensure that the place for worship is open, yet small in order, to help the congregation feel a closer connection to God. Some of the inside work is expected to include a new floor that will be "more liturgically appropriate," and the possible sale of the organ to create more usable space. On the outside, the plans call for an above-ground pool to surround three-fourths of the chapel so that it appears the building is floating on water. This plan is to be accompanied by a bell tower that President Slepitza says will be a prominent feature for the Avila Community to see from practically all sides of the campus.

Although the outside renovations will cost millions of dollars, the inside renovations for the chapel are estimated to total $90,000. The latter amount may seem rather costly even compared to the former, but Avila University has already received a few contributions to set a foundation for the interior work. With hope for open hearts, the chapel is expected to undergo renovations over the summer.

Wanted
The AU College Democrats, Steer Dinner Volunteers, and Illegal Software Downloaders.

February may be the shortest month of the year, but this section of the Talon is overflowing with campus news that you can use. Avila may be a small college community, but it is overflowing with opportunities for students to become involved. In this section, we explore student organizations such as: The AU Theater Group, AU International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), AU Resident Hall Association (RHA), and the AU Student Ambassadors. We also search for student organizations, such as the AU College Democrats.

The current economy is leaving educated, hardworking professionals without employment and money. If working professionals and major companies are going broke, then the average, unemployed Avila University student must be penniless. However, this penniless state that many students may be experiencing can be made a bit easier to deal with. Monica Lang gives tips for the penniless, free of charge. We also provide tips on how to earn an extra $500,000 in your lifetime with the MBA program here, at Avila.

We also shed light on some of the happenings around campus. While the House of God ,also known as Foyle Hall, gets a face lift, illegal downloading slows dormitory computer networks. The possibility of retention being the 8th value of Avila, and the recent art exhibit titled, " Speaking Lynneguistics" rounds out this issue of campus news.

Speaking *Lynneguistics* in Thornhill
Javier Kelty

Giving New Meaning to "Language Arts"

While most artists present their work publicly about once a year, Lynne Hodgman has managed to plan several shows on her agenda for 2009. On January 23, Hodgman presented her Lynneguistics art display, consisting of glyph artwork, in the Thornhill Gallery. The reception was held from 5-8 p.m. that evening.

Her unique style of art, known as glyphs, stems from Hodgman's background in linguistics.

"When I went to art school I knew writing in text would be the subject of my art," Hodgman said.

After getting a degree in linguistics, Hodgman went to the University of Kansas and received her BFA in Painting. Always fascinated with peoples' interpretations of symbols, Hodgman found her artistic niche in glyphs.

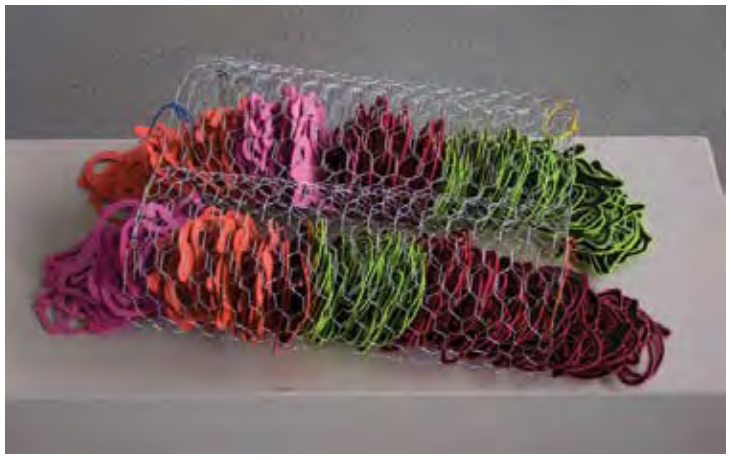
Glyphs are language-like symbols made of lines coming from the stroke of a pencil, paintbrush or even scissors. The pieces displayed in the Thornhill Gallery were made out of foam-based material but Hodgman explained that glyphs can be made out of any material.

Although Hodgman has used glyphs as her signature style of artistic expression, she stated that the beauty of it is that humans have had the impulse to make strokes, or gestures, longer than we have had writing systems. So even though Hodgman is putting her individual artistic touch on her glyphs, she is still following an ancient pattern of human behavior.

From standing towers of glyphs, "Flowing Subjunctives," to "Dangling Participles" hanging from the ceiling, the variety of structures Hodgman produces all carry linguistic elements.

The Lynneguistics display will stay open in the Thornhill Gallery throughout February.

While glyphs are the focus of Hodgman's work, she will be doing a show in April at the Epsten Gallery in Village Shalom, concentrating on the artwork she has made quilting, knitting and crocheting.



Steer Dinner
Nicole Drew

Every year in March Avila University hosts the Steer Dinner in hopes to raise as much money for student scholarships as possible. Last year, the dinner raised $353,487 for student scholarships, and with this money it ensures 98% of Avila first year students to receive some sort of financial aid.

The history of the Steer Dinner is quite a tale. Jimmy C, the grand champion steer of the American Royal, was purchased by some local businessmen and given to Sister Mary Louise Dallavis. In order to turn a profit, she had Jimmy C butchered and had an auction on campus to sell the steaks. Now, Jimmy C's bell is used to call everyone to dinner.

Each year, there is an auction held and a special game of Heads or Tails. The game has a $20 buy in and the winner gets a piece of jewelry. Last year the prize was a Balano diamond circle pendant. No word yet on what piece of jewelry will be given away, but it is sure to be amazing.

This event doesn't just happen overnight and planning happens almost the very next week after the dinner for the following year's event. This year's theme is Blessings Flow, in junction with the Avila sponsored exhibit, A Blessing to One Another. Volunteers also help make this event a success. Their tasks are to make guests comfortable as soon as they walk into the door and tell the story of the dinner. During the auction the students help encourage bids and then invite friends of Avila to dance.

"It is a really good chance to practice your public personal [attitude] and how to interact with top business people," said Susan Randolph.

This year the Steer Dinner will be held Saturday, March 7 at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel. The honorary chairs for this year are Tom and Jeanne Olofson. If anyone is interested in volunteering, they should go to the Avila website and apply or talk to Susan Randolph in the Alumni Advancement office.

Internet Misuse
Faye Gipe

It is Sunday evening and you have part of a paper to do before class tomorrow morning. You have to use the internet to find your sources but it is taking almost 20 minutes for your homepage to load. The library closes at 11 p. m. and you do not have enough time to get your research done with no internet in your room.

Are you frustrated just thinking about this possibility? Unfortunately, this situation has been an ongoing problem for residents on campus and has already occurred at least once since the beginning of this semester. Why is this still happening?

This is how it all works.

In the dorms, each room and each floor are given certain amounts of access to the internet. These amounts are more than enough to accommodate those living in the dorms, even when many residents play online games and when they leave their computers connected to the internet for long periods of time. This does little to nothing to internet availability for the other students in the dorms. The real problem with internet outage is that some students are taking up too much of the bandwidth (the rate of information transmission), which is meant for all of us to share. What's worse is that it only takes two to three people using more bandwidth than necessary to take out the internet for the rest of the residence halls.

Illegal Downloads

As complicated as computer lingo may seem to many of us, the reason for internet outages is quite simple: the downloading of large files. The majority of these files are illegally downloaded movies and cause more problems than internet outages for the rest of the students on campus. About once every month the Information Technology Services department receives a notice of copyright infringement from organizations like Sony and the Recording Industry Association of America, or the RIAA. Although it can take awhile to find the student behind the download, it is getting faster and easier for employees like Network and Systems Engineer Travis Skillman to track down the perpetrator.

The ITS is also finding ways to deter students from downloading these files. By blocking certain files from being transmitted, "we've done some things to slow that download down," says Skillman. The best advice, however, is to stop downloading altogether.

The Invisible Line of Communication
Ben Kopp

"...after all the efforts students are now asking why they have only received one message for the entire year."

Connecting a Campus

Avila University began an initiative this past year to include all students in a text message network in order to send alerts regarding cancellations, safety, and other events that may occur. This project went to such extents as advertising to incoming first-year students while having faculty members request their students to sign up for the text messaging. But after all the efforts students are now asking why they have only received one message for the entire year.

Soon after the Virginia Tech tragedy, the Missouri Campus Security Task Force created by former Governor Matt Blunt recommended several ways for Missouri colleges to increase the level of safety on their campuses. Avila weighed the pros of sending a mass message to warn its students against the cons in what could happen if a rushed message accidentally communicated unwanted information to the student body. Other colleges came to a decision rather quickly, and Avila University followed them with caution.

Since Avila's decision to connect students to Campus Safety via text-message, it has been determined that a few simple guidelines are needed. First, the University is using restrictive judgment in the sending of messages. This will hopefully maintain the students' desire to read a message when one is actually sent. Secondly, a small group of volunteers was set to receive a test text once a week to ensure the system is working properly. According to Tim Bosler, Avila's Campus Safety Manager, it is important for students to remember that the text messaging system is one of many lines of communication and should not be solely relied upon in the event of an emergency. Thus, it is important for students to listen to the administration and Campus Safety officers to ensure that all emergencies end well.

Attention Avila students, faculty & staff!
Pick up your voucher in the Marian Center
Campus Life Office for a

FREE TICKET
to any
Kansas City Symphony Classical Series Performance at the Lyric Theater

A Hero's Life----------Feb. 27, 28 & March 1
Benedetti Plays Tavener------March 27, 28 & 29
Beethoven's "Pastorale"------April 3, 4 & 5
Beethoven & Brahms---------May 15, 16 & 17
Serkin Plays Beethoven------May 29, 30 & 31

For schedules & performance information, log on to www.kcsymphony.org or call the Symphony box office at (816) 471-0400.

Tickets are subject to availability. Free ticket provided by Richard Miller.
Questions? Contact the Avila Campus Life Office at (816) 501-3660.

Written Up for Good Intentions: Student Perspective
Kayle Walker

Of course we all love to complain about things, and typically I keep my ranting to my friends, but this issue I wanted to get something off my chest.

So here's what happened. I don't live on campus, but a friend of mine does. On this particular day my friend was deathly ill, so ill he couldn't get out of bed. Being the nice friend that I am, I decided to take my friend some get-well goodies—sprite, crackers, etc. Since I don't live in the dorms I don't have a card that gives me access to the doors and since my friend couldn't get out of bed to let me in the dorms this posed a problem.

The solution to my problem was to wait outside the dorms and wait for someone to walk in so I could get in. As I got to the top of the stairs I got my opportunity. Problem was, it was a staff member who works in the dorms.

Of course she asks why I don't have my key and I tell her I don't live in the dorms (I'm not a liar). She tells me she cannott and will not let me in and that my friend has to come down. I explain to her about my deathly ill friend who can't get out of bed, but she doesn't budge. Being the problem solver I am, I ask her if she will take the goodies to him, but nope not an option either.

It was just my luck that I left my phone in my car, so I walked down the stairs to get it to call my deathly ill friend who can't get out of bed. As I walk back up the stairs I got another opportunity to "sneak" in the doors, so I followed a girl in.

Thinking I won and ranting to the girl at the front desk I head up the stairs. Once again, not so lucky. The lady who works in the dorms (I'm choosing to keep her identity to myself) stopped me again and proceeded to tell me that if I follow someone in again I will get "written up."

Okay, seriously? Obviously I know my violation, but I am still unclear to the consequences? I do respect the rules and understand they do not want random people in the dorms. I lived there once and valued my safety too.

Here's the thing though, what if I was a parent of the deathly ill guy upstairs? Would she have extended the same courtesy? There could have been many alternatives to this problem. She could have escorted me to the room, taken my driver's license, taken the bags herself, etc. But then again, this same person wanted to call the cops on students for having water guns, but we'll save that for another day.

If anything else, she could have been a little less rude. You never know who you're offending… it may be a whiney brat that writes for the Talon.

Have something you want to get off your chest? Email me (walker129211@avila.edu) to get your chance to vent about your personal experiences in the next issue of the Talon.

Penniless Tips
Monica Lang

Not Cheap...Just Frugal

Along with every other college student in the world, we are broke. So, what to do? When in need of an outfit to go out in or a new trendy piece of jewelry, check out thelimited.com or forever21.com. Every store is having a sale! Right now swimsuits (spring break is coming up) are under $40 at Victoriasecret.com. HUGE bargains are everywhere, so check them out and take advantage of those things that one rarely has time to shop for online. There are deals for free shipping and handling. Also, if you go to a store and they don't have a particular shoe, or style look at Stevemadden.com. There you will find big deals on shoes, and a variety of colors. One option is go to the store, try them on, and then go home and look on ebay.com or stevemadden.com for the style you like. These little tips can help you save BIG when trying to make the most with pennies.

Another way to save big is to buy what you can in bulk. Save a little money here and there, then you can save for another little online shopping spree for yourself. This is very handy, especially when at the grocery store. For example, at the grocery store I only buy those items that I want to be fresh and delicious, like produce, bread, cheese, deli meat, and of course ice cream (because grocery stores always have the best selection). For the rest of the household items, Wal-Mart beats the price at most places, so basic boxed items are usually cheapest at big stores like Target or Wal-Mart. Therefore, cereals, salad dressing, milk, and canned items should all be bought at places like Wal-Mart to avoid paying a dollar or two more at the grocery store. Also, Wal-Mart is good for shampoo, body wash, soap, toothpaste, and razors. These little adjustments can save money. Also, learn to COOK! So many college students throw away their money on fast food! I am not saying that I am not a culprit, but every student could cut back on eating out. Try to make a goal of only eating out once or maybe twice a week maximum. Think of all the cash that will be left over for online shopping! Enjoy these helpful hints and start saving!

"Save a little money here and there, then you can save for another little online shopping spree for yourself."

Student Employment: Hurt by the Economy?
Kalie Laidley

Good Luck

In this time of financial crisis, many are asking the question: Is Avila University's student employment affected? Everyone in America is feeling the financial strain. However, here at Avila, the 145 students involved with the campus work-study program have been able to preserve their jobs. This is due to the money for work-study wages coming solely from the government. In fact, the program has even implemented a wage raise due to the passage of the law that increased the minimum wage amount.

Tiffany Flores, the head of Avila University's work-study program says, "More students are coming to the financial aid department wanting a work study position."

When taking into consideration Avila University's alumni, it may be a different story. Many graduates of Avila are contacting the career center in hopes of finding new employment. These people are hoping to use the career center's system, which places graduates in contact with employers.

Mary Corless in Avila's Career Services department says she has seen "an increase in alumni contact with Avila about resume assistance and employer communication."

So, whether you are a current student or a graduate of Avila University, there are services available to you that you can utilize in this time of economic crisis.

"More students are coming to the financial aid department wanting a work study position."

VALUE VENT: Make Retention Your Eighth Avila Value
Ben Kopp

According to official documentation, Avila's foundation is built on strong values that deal with helping individuals learn and grow regardless of their background. This causes us to reach out to the community and recruit the youngest members thereof. On the other hand, Avila University is a business that requires money for projects and profits. Obtaining more recruits provides the money Avila needs, obtaining money brings more recruits to Avila, and the cycle continues.

Among various members of the Avila Community, the pressing question is: Where do the students fit in this cycle? While almost as many students appear to be at Avila compared to last semester, it also appears that our community lost several students. Oddly enough, several students who left Avila were good students who wanted to stay at the University. Some of these students mentioned changing their major to one that was not offered at Avila, yet others found they had less money helping them than expected. On the other hand, these two reasons are only from the side that loved Avila while they parted ways and discussed it. We may never really know the full reasoning of other students who left Avila University, but there are ways to find simple reasons for why we are not keeping them. If student concerns are addressed when they are mentioned, that is one student we retain. If student voices and employee voices are trusted on the same level as one another, there is a group of five students who will stay. If everyone in the Avila community helps one another and welcomes one another the same way they would do for recruits, that is an inconceivable number of students who will stay and support Avila University for years to come.

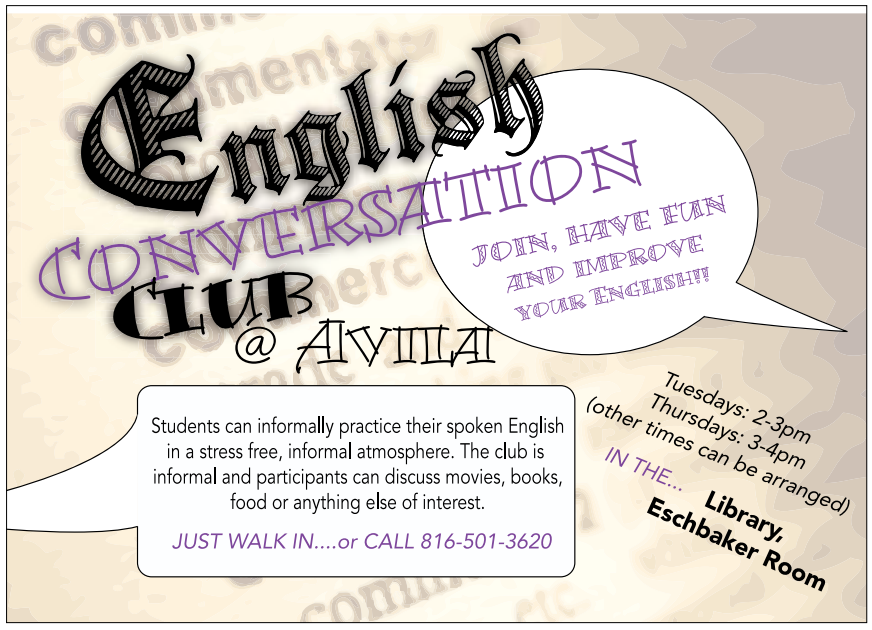
What Can a MBA do for YOU?
Sherry Haetinger

If you are a first or second year student, you are probably hoping and praying that you get through the next few years and finally graduate. Third and fourth year students, you may be wondering if you will be able to land that great job and finally start earning some real money. But perhaps you are that highly motivated and driven individual that wants to further your education even more. Have you taken a look at what Avila University's School of Business can offer you with an MBA (Master of Business Administration) degree?

You may now be thinking to yourself: What can an MBA do for me? Isn't a Bachelors degree enough? Well, the truth is that a Bachelor's may be enough for now, but don't you want to earn a higher paying salary and polish your communication skills? According to the AACSB International, "Why Management Education Matters," in 2005, a study of alumni from 30 high-rated business schools showed that in ten years after graduation, nearly one-third of those surveyed were in one of the top 3 positions at their company. Wouldn't you like to be one of those top 3? An MBA graduate can have a lifetime earning average of about $500,000 more than the average college graduate.

Now you know how an MBA can help you reach your long-term goals, so let me tell you how Avila University can help you with it. Some of the best professors who have actually worked in the real world are going to teach you; not just from the book (how boring), but from real life. Dr. Alan Garner is an Associate Professor of Economics and a Harvard graduate. Judy Gibbs, J.D. is the Associate Professor of Business and has been an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Johnson County. Dr. Neal Horrell teaches in the finance department and has worked on Wall Street to help create the Aquila Energy Trading Floor.

Concentrations include Accounting, Finance, Health Care Administration, International Business and more. Some Avila MBA graduates have landed jobs at Cerner, Sprint, State Street, Hallmark and many other well-known companies in the Kansas City area. So if you happen to be that go-getter and are wondering if it is possible to continue your education, go find out what Avila University can do for you! Contact Michele Barnes, the new Avila MBA Recruiter, at Michele.barnes@avila.edu for more information.



Around Avila

A Spirited Game of ROSHAMBO

Jalapeno Queen and King Contest

Making Valentines

Celebrating Valentine's Day!

Campus Ministry Ski Trip at Snow Creek

Leisure Activities

IABC: A Tool for Life
David Perkins

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) is a relatively new organization on Avila's campus. Avila's chapter of IABC has only been here for one year. IABC was formed in the 1970's and now represents a professional network of nearly 16,000 business communication professionals, located in over 70 countries worldwide. These business communicators have positions in several different fields including: Corporate Communication, Public Relations, Marketing, Teaching, Writing, Video production, Government relations, and countless other areas.

According to Linda Strelluf, the Avila IABC advisor, this organization is not merely for college students, but it is an organization that provides benefits throughout one's career. The networking ability can get those searching for a job in touch with professionals and openings in their desired field. Also, IABC has seminars to help its members with various problems such as: dealing with the tough economic time, better communication skills within a corporation, and different strategies for communicating. IABC also helps business professionals enhance their skills by providing thousands of tips and tricks listed online for their members to access.

Avila's chapter of IABC has entered in competitions and done quite well so far, winning several awards called "Quills." Right now the Avila chapter of the IABC is conducting a member drive hoping to boost enrollment. For more information regarding the organization refer to www.iabc.com or talk to Linda Strelluf for membership information.

RHA and Its' Team
Courtney Ryan

The Residence Hall Association, known to most students as RHA is a student organization run by Avila students. It's primary purpose is to sponsor activities for students living on campus. "We try and make life better by putting on events at least once a month" says President Patrick Turk, senior. In the past RHA has sponsored events under such as offering meals from Jack Stack Barbeque. "Bringing in Jack Stack Barbeque is something we like to do because we get more students together and they interact with each other too." stated Turk.

Vice President Ashley Ratliff, junior said "We've did an activity at the beginning of the year during the fair where we had bowling and students won a prize." Other past events the organization have been Halloween Halls and finals packages. It takes the team about one day to shop for the packages and one day to put together. "Most of all we also try and reach out to the students by taking suggestions on what they want in campus living and aim to fulfill that mean" says Ashley Ratliff. Other students on the RHA team are Jennifer Lindsey, Kyle Fowler and Bailey Umstattd who is a student assistant. If you would like to get involved in RHA or want to give them any type of input you can email Patrick Turk at turk95917@avila.edu.

Where Are All the Democrats Hiding?
Jason Jacob

Nowhere to be Found

In an attempt to satisfy an Intro to Journalism class assignment I chose to write a story on the College Democrats. On the surface this seemed to be such an easy assignment because of the excitement associated with the election of Barack Obama as the 44th President just last month, I anticipated the AU College Democratic Club would be jubilant and filled with joy. So I called, e-mailed, and visited the office to get some questions about the organization but these efforts were to no avail. Although I was unsuccessful in getting an audience with Dr. Hynes prior to my deadline, I still expected that it would be easy to spot AUDC club members wearing Obama gear around campus with big smiles on their faces, but I didn't see a one.....So if you are a member of the AU College Democrat Club or just a democrat with somethings you want to share just drop me an email at talon@avila.edu or join the online discussion at www.thetalon-online.com. Republicans are welcome to join in the discussion as well.

Students Show a Friendly Face
By Trisha Simmons

Have you seen a few of your peers or classmates giving tours of Avila's campus? Have you wondered why these students dedicate their time to giving tours, how they got involved, and what it is they are even involved in? All of Avila's campus tours are given by the Avila Student Ambassadors.

The Avila Student Ambassadors is an organization designed to use current students as representatives of the Admissions Office. The Ambassadors give tours of the campus to perspective students and participate in special events. Bailey Umstattd, Avila student and President of Avila Student Ambassadors, explains the importance of the role of the Ambassadors.

"We are one of the first people that perspective students meet. We get to showcase the University and bring perspective students to the campus," said Umstattd. In addition to meeting new people, the Student Ambassadors are benefited from this unique program.

Each Ambassador is given $250 per semester in return for their participation in the program, but even students who are not Ambassadors are still affected by this program.

"If a perspective student comes in we try to network them with the students at Avila University," said Umstattd. You may be stopped on the sidewalk and introduced to a perspective student who shares common interests with you. The work that the Ambassadors do is greatly appreciated by the University.

Students who are interested in joining the Avila Student Ambassadors can stop by the Admission Office in Blasco Hall and ask for an application, or speak to Marcos Harders, Student Ambassadors advisor. Contact Marcos through e-mail, marcos.harders@avila.edu, or call (816) 501-3603.

Avila University Theater Group Keeps Members Entertained
By Nicole Drew

Have you ever wondered about the actors up on stage playing Queen Victoria or Hamlet? What do they do behind those curtains when the show is over? For Avila's theater students there is Avila University Theater Group.

The Avila University Theatre Group (AUTC), an organization of young theatre students, has been present on the campus since the fall semester of 2005. Their two main goals are to put on quality productions and find opportunities for the theater group to become closer. These goals may seem simple, but the five student leaders, Andy Perkins, Alexa Washington, Xanda Pilley, Riley Clute, and Jillian Foster, know different.

Throughout the school year AUTC produces four main-stage shows with usually one children's show and numerous student directed scenes. Their children's show is sometimes in co-production with the Theatre for Young America (TYA), which is a local professional theatre house. Along with the children's show, Avila faculty and students put on a show with campers during the summer camp that was started with the TYA.

Their current production, A Piece of My Heart, by Shirley Lauro, will be performed Feb. 26-28 at 8 pm, and March 1 at 2 pm. Later in the semester they will be performing the musical West Side Story.

AUTC's President, Andy Perkins, enjoys every part of the group. He truly believes in the group and has fun with everyone.

"[My favorite part is] being around all the amazing people in the theater department. They are what make AUTC great," said Perkins. "We are not as crazy as you think."

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009

FEB 24TH

Mardi Gras Late-Night Breakfast - 9 PM in the Marion Center
Free food, fun, and PANCAKE RACES!

FEB 27TH-MARCH 1ST

A Piece of My Heart Theater Performance

MARCH 7TH

Steer Dinner & Auction (Volunteers still needed)

MARCH 15TH - 21ST

SPRING BREAK!!

March 17th

St. Patrick's Day

Win A $50 QuikTrip Gas Card!
Stop by the Financial Aid office for details

March 4th-6th & 25th-27th
April 1st-3rd

FREE TICKET (Campus Life Office) to any KC Symphony Lyric Theater

February 27th & 28th - A Hero's Life
March 27th, 28th & 29th - Benedetti Plays Tavener

Get Away for Spring Break!

Cheap Getaways for 2009
Lane Goodin
One Wild Week

Its that time of year again when we get a week off to go party somewhere other then here. You know what I am talking about… Spring Break. As college students this is a must in order to keep our sanity. But where are the best places to go while on a budget? Since the economy is down, places are cutting back their prices. For instance, if you're 21 a nice week in Las Vegas sounds like fun, and the New Trump hotel is starting rooms at $89.00 a night. If you are looking for something with a beach, Miami, Padre, Panama, and Cali have great deals too.

South Beach, in Miami is one of the most notorious places to go for spring break. With beaches and hot spot clubs, South Beach is the way to go in Florida. If you are looking to ride waves then southern Cal is the place to be. San Diego has many attractions as well, like the beautiful beaches, where surfing is a must.

If you are looking for a fun city maybe not with a beach, New York is great. It is still a little chilly, but not too bad. There are so many things to do in New York you will not have much down time. Between the shows, the Statue of Liberty, and just seeing the sites, this city has a lot to offer.

There are so many places that are offering inexpensive packages to get away. No matter what your budget is be sure to find a place to go and get away for at least a week. Wherever you go for spring break have fun and be safe.

A Blessing to One Another

Nicole Drew

Avila Helps Bring Awareness to Interfaith Dialogue

Waiting to order, I sit at a table with Avila University President Ron Slepitza, Dr. James Buchanan, and Rabbi Abie Ingber. By the time our salads arrived, our conversation was already underway, talking about the opening night.

"Now is a perfect time for the exhibit to open here in your city," commented Rabbi Abie Ingber, "Just look at what is going on between the Jewish community and Catholic community today."

The exhibit "A Blessing to One Another" was created in honor of Pope John Paul II and his effort in interfaith dialogue. To create it in seven months, the creators, Dr. James Buchanan, Rabbi Abie Ingber, Dr. Bill Madges, and Dr. Yaffa Eliach had their work cut out for them. They traveled to Rome in October of 2004 and received Pope John Paul II's blessing for the exhibit which would be opened for his Birthday in May of 2005. In effort to have the exhibit ready by Pope John Paul II's 85th birthday, the creators worked till 3 am in a tiny room on three computers - never eating out, only ordering in so they didn't lose any research time. All decisions were made unanimously and no votes were ever taken.

"Just look at what is going on between the Jewish community and Catholic community today."

Walking through the exhibit, one gets to see the progression of Pope John Paul II and his friend Jerzy Kluger's lives. It celebrates the 2,000 years of bad history between the two religions being broken, and the steps to recognizing and visiting the State of Israel. It honors the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, a declaration of relationship with Catholic and non-Catholic religions. There are historical artifacts set against large photos and numerous videos. Toward the end of the exhibit, there is a replica of Jerusalem's Western Wall where visitors are encouraged to write down a prayer and place it at the wall. Visitors are also allowed to touch a bronze cast of John Paul II's hand.

Avila University's President, Ron Slepitza, was a docent for the exhibit when it originally appeared in Cincinnati.

"I witnessed and experienced its power to transform, to tell a story about the relationships of our youth and the values that we hold being a guide throughout our life," said Slepitza. He wanted Avila to bring the exhibit to Kansas City as a gift to the people and to play a role in interfaith dialogue.

Right now, the ties between the Catholic church and Judaism are on the rocks since Pope Benedict XVI excommunicated four bishops, one being Richard Williamson of Great Britain, on January 24. The upset arose from Williamson's views on the Holocaust and his denial of the event. Israel's chief rabbinate cancelled meetings in the Vatican planned for March and cut ties with Rome in protest of the Pope's actions. *A Blessing to One Another* only reinforces how important the interreligious dialogue is to help the world's people understand one another.

"It is important to open up interfaith dialogue. If you really want to know about a different religion like Judaism, don't just read about it. Make friends with a Jewish person," said Dr. James Buchanan.

The exhibit, running from Feb. 3-March 27, is free to the public at Union Station in the Arthur Stilwell Room. It is open from 9:30 am till 5:30 pm Tuesday thru Thursday, noon till 5:30 pm on Sundays, and closed on Mondays.

"I witnessed and experienced its power to transform, to tell a story about the relationships of our youth and the values that we hold being a guide throughout our life,

Pope John Paul II and Jerzy Kluger

Woman at Wailing Wall in Jerusalem

Dr. James Buchanan

A&E

In This Section

Emily Hoskins

The Talon's own fashion expert Ricky gives both the guys and gals of Avila some fashion tips that are sure to be of some help throughout the rest of February; and to get some quick tips just scan to find the four quick rules that will be of great assistance. Nicole Drew raves about Adam McInnis, a new singer/songwriter from Austin, Texas who's jams are perfect for those lazy Sunday afternoons when you just want to relax. In addition to fashion tips and new entertainment opportunities, controversial questions are being raised about Kansas City's new Power & Light District because of continued investigations of complaints of discrimination and profiling. Does the KCP&L really benefit Kansas City as a whole? Find out more in this A&E section. Finally a riveting review is given for film, *The Pink Panther 2* , and to find out if it is really for YOUR viewing pleasure, read the following review.

Let Goppert Share a Piece of Its Heart with You

Ben Kopp

Heart Warming Theatre

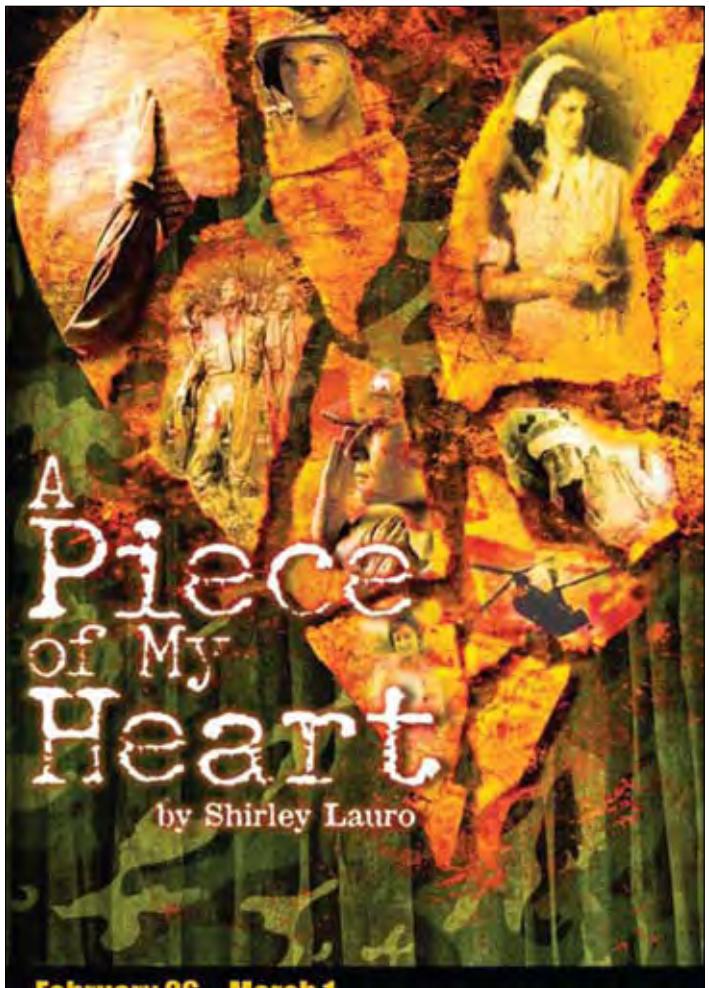
Speaking of the Vietnam War may remind people of the men who fought to keep Communism out of the United States. Some might also remember the questions of whether or not women would ever be drafted into the army, or perhaps how the soldiers were treated when they returned from the war. Unfortunately, the memories of the women who volunteered to go to Vietnam are rare. The nurses, United Service Organizations (USO), Red Cross, and intelligence agents all had women who experienced horrors similar to those of the men in Vietnam, and their stories are now coming to Avila University's Goppert Theatre under Shirley Lauro's play, *A Piece of My Heart*.

Having found several students interested in the 1960s, the Avila University Theatre Company invites everyone to discover what the women of the Vietnam War experienced before, during, and after the war.

"The play uses a mixture of tones to mirror the experience in Vietnam," says Director Charlene Gould. *A Piece of My Heart* will also convey the war by using partial realism to draw viewers into the experiences while limiting the graphic nature of the war. Most uniquely for this campus, the production will literally center itself in front of the audience as they are offered a "theatre-in-the-round" experience for the first time in the history of Goppert Theatre.

This journey through the war begins February 26-28 at 8:00PM and March 1 at 2:00PM. The students, faculty, and staff of Avila University will receive free admission to the show, and are encouraged to stay for the talkback, which will be held with a nurse who served in the Vietnam War.

"...the production will literally center itself in front of the audience as they are offered a "theatre-in-the-round" experience for the first time in the history of Goppert Theatre."



KCP&L Dress Code

Jabob Lemmon

Discrination District

Kansas City's new Power & Light District debuted to immense fanfare and acclaim. Promising vibrant, hip entertainment and local economic development, it seemed a fitting addition to the urban revival of downtown. Attracting patrons from all over the metro and abroad, KCP&L seems to live up to its reputation. However, KCP&L may not be as beneficial to Kansas City as previously hoped. Controversy frequently surrounds the new party district. According to the KC Tribune, in August of 2008, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) launched a protest to bring awareness to the racial profiling that takes place under the guise of strict dress code. The code bans such apparel as baggy clothing, exposed necklaces on men, athletic wear or sweats, and bandannas to name a few. The Tribune reported that complaints about the dress code indicate unequal application based on race. Both the ACLU and the KC Human Relations Division continue to investigate complaints of discrimination and profiling.

"...KCP&L seems to live up to its reputation. However, KCP&L may not be as beneficial to Kansas City as previously hoped."

When it comes down to local economy, the benefits of the KCP & L District are questionable. While the district hosts many Kansas City based businesses and entrepreneurs, a significant fraction of businesses are national chains which have little invested in the local economic growth of the city. This includes the Cordish Corporation, a Baltimore based company that holds the title as the district's corporate owner and developer.

Despite its flashy lights and open container exception, the new Power & Light District raises varied questions concerning the benefit it offers to Kansas City as a whole. Is it really diversifying our local economy, or is it offering just another centralized money magnet? Is it to benefit all Kansas City citizens, or does it follow the grim tradition of racism and segregation that secretly haunts our city's legacy?

Photo: John Roehner

McInnis for Those Lazy Sundays

Nicole Drew

The Day of Rest

Imagine taking a chance and following your dreams to do something you truly love. Adam McInnis, a singer songwriter from Austin, Texas, did exactly that after a dream one night when he was twenty. After realizing working a nine to five was just not going to cut it, McInnis began to search other options to allow him to freely express himself. Being an artist on Universal Christian Records, McInnis is now able to live out his motto to "Do everything with soul."

His debut album, *Wherever You Are,* contains twelve songs of various styles. There is everything from acoustic sessions (just piano) to a full energetic band. For being a new student in music, it is not apparent that McInnis hasn't been doing this for years. His songs are full of energy with great melodies and striking chords.

McInnis grew up in a very spiritual and cultural household, having a bold evangelist father and Russian trained folk-and-opera singer mother. Growing up in Manhattan, New York, McInnis was blessed to be exposed to so many types of music generated in the city. This is evident through his varying tracks.

Although McInnis is musically gifted, this is not an album to turn all the way up in the car and jam to. This is the type of album to put on in your room and relax, whenever there is not too much going on. The music will lift you up and make you think about everything in your life. This beautiful album is for those lazy Sundays that everyone needs to enjoy.

Fashion "T" with Fashionista "Ricky"

Ricky Davis

"...the goal is to look amazing, right?"

What to Wear

This March I know exactly what you are thinking: what am I going to wear? Well, ladies and gentleman, you are reading the right column today. This month's fashion "T" is going to be beneficial for the whole month of March. Now I know that I look kind of rough sometimes, but I know fashion like the back of my hand. With that said, let's get started.

Ladies, I will start with you first. On that special day the goal is to look amazing, right? Well, Ricky has the "T" for ya! I am going to give you an option for an outfit that will make you stunning yet very urban and classy all at once. The first outfit is for that special night. You always want to start with shoes and work your way up. You want to be comfortable as you walk. So decide whether you want to wear flats or heels. Never wear sandals or tennis shoes - those are not lady-like for this occasion. So after you have figured that out, you want to decide on wearing jeans or a skirt. No dresses please, ladies; it is not summer time, let alone spring time, so leave the dresses in your wardrobes! As far as jeans go, if you are wearing flats do not wear skinny jeans. You would want to do a straight leg; there is a HUGE difference! Learn it! Don't, I repeat, DON'T wear any wide leg jeans, cut up jeans, or jeans that are ragged at the bottom. That is very tacky. Now for the top, let's just say you want to be classy. That means a well-fitted shirt that is not revealing too much. You can wear a nice ruffled shirt or a very cute graphic tee with a fitted jacket. Now this is the hard part that all girls go through, JEWELRY! Follow these four rules to help you through this rough time.

Rule One: If you have a high neck shirt, do not wear a necklace. When I say high neck, I mean ruffle.

Rule Two: Never put too much jewelry on. You don't want your jewelry taking away from your whole outfit.

Rule Three: Only wear long earrings with an up-do. Don't wear them with your hair down.

Last Rule (This is the *Golden Rule*): If you look in the mirror and you ask yourself if this is too much, take off the last thing you put on (jewelry) and tell me what you think.

Also, always remember purses are really cute accessories and sometimes all the hand jewelry is not necessary.

Guys, our style is really laid back. We like to be comfortable. No slacks unless it is a special event. Well, I feel your pain, but don't you think this is a special event? But if comfortable is what you want, here you go. Now guys like to look like a prep boy. Fitted tee, skinny jeans, straight legs, high top shoes, chucks, DC's… the list goes on. So let's make an outfit. For us it is a little different from the ladies: We don't start with the shoes first. We start with a shirt and work around it. This is because you can get a really cool graphic tee from a store like PacSun or American Eagle. Then you want to decide if you want to wear baggy or straight. Go straight - baggy is just not in anymore so give it up. Absolutely no shorts - that is so tasteless and classless. Now for the shoes: You have to match the color of your shoes and the color of your shirt. Also, when you wear shoes, don't put the tongue in front of the pants. After you are dressed look in the mirror, pat yourself on the back and throw on a fitted baseball cap, because you can never go wrong with a cap.

So I hope I have given you enough advice in this article that will help you, not only on the love day but throughout the rest of the month or the school year. Remember, ladies: With colors you can be creative. Bright colors and light denim look really nice together with toned down, darker jewelry.

Next month I am going to answer any questions you may have and give you the "T" on how to tell your friend, "That is so ugly!" without hurting their feelings.

If you have any questions concerning fashion tips, please contact me with your name and question at davis186379@avila.edu.

The Pink Panther 2

Kaile Laidley

Family Friendly Farce or Failure?

The Pink Panther 2 holds the classic theme while illustrating the story of detectives around the globe searching for missing treasures from numerous countries. The team is led by inspector Jacques Clouseau (Steve Martin), a clumsy but clever man who always finds a way (intentionally or not) to solve the crime and save the day.While the film's director Harald Zwart does maintain the history behind this unforgettable story, he seems to trail off a bit with some worthless humor and awkwardness on Clouseau's part that could annoy any viewer. However, *The Pink Panther 2* proves to be a motion picture for the entire family, which is enough to give it a two out of five rating.

"...a clumsy but clever man who always finds a way"

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SPORTS
In This Section
Colleen Reagan

In this month's issue of sports we have great articles that will catch your eye. As the winter fades away, the Spring brings baseball. Read about Avila's team in this issue's preview. The men's and women's basketball teams are wrappeing up their season, and we have an athlete spotlight on standout Ashley Townsend. Basketball isn't the only sport that is blowing us away this year. Dance and cheer also had a great finish at Nationals So, get comfy and enjoy reading this month's sports!

Tis The Season for Baseball
Colleen Reagan

What time is it? Time for baseball! Avila Eagles are back in action for another fun and intense season.

What makes Baseball season one of the best seasons of all? This is the time of year when the weather starts getting nice and summer is right around the corner.

Last season the Eagles won their first HAAC West title and made it to a regional semifinal game. The team continues to have high hopes for this season. The pitching staff is led by senior Nathan Albert, and is followed with a lot of depth. Also taking the mound will be Michael Brucks, Gary Lumby, Zach Snyder, Jason Bell, and Sean Belknap.

Leading the Eagles on defense will be starting shortstop Eric Prickett and catcher Brandon Haley. New comers Mario Ausiello, Andy Velarde, and Luis Barrera join them in the infield, and Brandon Pearl and Tim Matson add to the Eagles' strong defense in the outfield.

The Eagles started their season off in sunny California and had their home opener against Ottawa University, leaving the team with a 1-2 record.

The games are set and the weather is just right, so get out there baseball fans and cheer on your Avila Eagles!

UPCOMING BASBEALL GAMES

2/27/09	Fri	Iowa Wesleyan College	1:00/3:00pm	HOME
2/28/09	Sat	Iowa Weselyan College	1:00/3:00pm	HOME
3/1/09	Sun	William Woods University	1:00/3:00pm	HOME
3/7/09	Sat	Missouri Valley College	1:00/3:00pm	Marshall, MO
3/8/09	Sun	Missouri Valley College	1:00/3:00pm	HOME
3/13/09	Fri	Evangel University	1:00/3:00pm	HOME
3/14/09	Sat	Evangel University	1:00/3:00pm	HOME
3/17/09	Tues	Central Methodist University	1:00/3:00pm	Fayette, MO
3/21/09	Sat	Culver-Stockton College	1:00/3:00pm	Canton, MO
3/22/09	Sun	Culver-Stockton College	1:00/3:00pm	Canton, MO
3/28/09	Sat	Baker University	1:00/3:00pm	HOME
3/29/09	Sun	Baker University	1:00/3:00pm	Baldwin City, KS
3/31/09	Tues	Lindenwood University	1:00/3:00pm	HOME

Avila's Men's Basketball
Lane Goodin

The Avila Men's Basketball team's season is almost finished with only a few games left. Despite some setbacks, they show a lot of potential. The freshmen class played a big role this year for the Eagle's so it is quite obvious that coach Hall is counting on the boys to grow together as a team over this next year. It takes time for a young team such as this one to find a rhythm on the court. There are no seniors on the team so no one is saying their good byes just yet. With the progress the team has made throughout the season expect this time next year for the Avila Men's Basketball team to have a winning record. So far this season they have an overall record of 10-15 and a HAAC record of 6-11 and are fighting for a spot in the postseason tournament. The season may be nearing the end but the boys still have time to make a run. They have the ability to challenge any team in the conference so do not be surprised to hear of a big upset. Come out to cheer on the men's and women's teams as they play there last few games. Really the best is yet to come, and you don't want to miss a thing.

Avila Cheeer and Dance
Faye Gipe

"We went out there and gave it everything we had..."

National Winners

While many of us were enjoying a cozy break at home with our families, the Avila Cheer Squad and Dance Team were hard at work preparing for a trip to Orlando, Florida to compete in this year's UCA/UDA College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championship. After practicing their moves from as far back as October, the girls attended the competition from January 15-19 and placed in the top ten of their divisions.

The Avila Cheer Squad, competing in an all girl division, executed a tough routine that had many of the girls in the air most of the time during their performance. During the semi-final round everything seemed to be going smoothly until the end of the performance, when one of the girls sustained an injury. This meant the squad would have to continue into the final round without one of its members. Although this threw off their routine, the girls kept their spirits up and still managed to place 6th in their division.

As for the Avila Dance Team, they competed in both Hip Hop and Jazz styles against 41 other universities in their open division. "Before we went out we huddled up and said, 'let's just do this for us and no one else.' We went out there and gave it everything we had and we took third!" team member Grace Gillespie said of the final round in the Hip Hop competition. Although the team also placed 6th in the Jazz portion of the championship, the biggest excitement was the unexpected higher ranking in Hip Hop. Dancer Samantha Sanoubane said, "Placing third in Hip Hop was probably the most amazing feeling I have ever had, especially being there with the girls. Third place definitely felt like first place for us because we all danced from our hearts."

Avila Women's Basketball Update

Peter Kondracki

Lady Eagles Flying High

The Avila Women's Basketball team has enjoyed some great success so far this season. With a 21-4 record and tied for 1st place in the Heart of America Athletic Conference, the girls are reaping the benefits of hard work and dedication. If you ever get the privilege of watching these girls practice, you will see exactly why this year's team has been a dominant force in the conference. Intensity is the key ingredient in this recipe for success. Head Coach Larry Williams is definitely not afraid to raise his voice and carry on when the time is appropriate, but he also is a teacher of the game and lets these girls know why they are being reprimanded. Hard work and discipline in practice definitely has translated to game day, but it is not the only reason these girls are so good. When asked what was the biggest reason the team has been experiencing so much success Coach Williams responded, "Our seniors, definitely our seniors. Their leadership has been invaluable to this team. Sarah (Parker), Emily (Hoskins), and Ashley (Townsend) are great leaders." And they certainly are. Ashley is not only an emotional leader but is also the team's leading scorer (19.59 PPG) and leads the team in steals (37). Ashley also ranks 5th in Points per Game (19.4), 21st in Field Goal Percentage (0.525), and 28th in Free Throw Percentage (0.803) in Division 1. Emily leads the team in Assists (121) and ranks 8th in Assists per Game (5.831), 10th in Assist/Turnover Ratio (2.132) in the division. Sarah ranks 18th in 3-point Field Goal Percentage (0.421) and 26th 3-point Field Goals per Game (2.286).

"Intensity is the key ingredient in this recipe for success."

The team as a whole ranks in the top 15 of the Division in most categories. Now, I'm no statistical genious, but at first glance this team has looked pretty solid and that's probably an understatement.

After an impressive 90-68 victory over Park University, the girls seem to be building great momentum heading into the HAAC Tournament early next month. "We should qualify for the tournament, but our goal is to win the conference. If we win most of our next games we have a great chance. Now it's about how high of a seed we can get for the tournament," said Head Coach Larry Williams.

Post season glory seems destined for this year's squad and as long as they keep working like they are, they shouldn't disappoint.

Jaime Kenney scores her 1,000th Career Point at Avila!

Senior Basketball Spotlight: Ashley Townsend

Jacqueline Sharp

On and Off the Court

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be one of the stars of the Avila Women's Basketball team? Well, next time you see senior Ashley Townsend ask her. This is Townsend's fourth year playing for the Lady Eagles and she has really enjoyed her time here. Her favorite memory of the Avila Women's Basketball team is the team trip they took this year to Florida over Christmas break. Townsend said "Besides getting away from the cold Missouri weather it was a great bonding experience for the team and we played really well, reminding us of how much potential we have." Townsend, who is the starting forward for the Lady Eagles, exclaimed she can't speak highly enough about her teammates, "We have experience and depth at every position. We all work very hard and share the same enthusiasm about where we want to be at the end of the season." Coming from Orrick, Missouri she did not have far to travel when she came to Avila and now she even has the opportunity to spend her final season playing with her younger sister, Brittany. Being a senior on the team Townsend brings leadership to the team and was also named the HAAC player of the week for the week of December 16, 2008. In May Ashley plans to graduate with a degree in accounting and then plans to continue on to graduate school. So, if you get the chance you should check out the Avila Eagles Women's Basketball team at their upcoming games on February 21st and 26th. For information about the Avila Women's Basketball team you can go to avila.edu/athletics.

"...Ashley plans to graduate with a degree in accounting and then plans to continue on to graduate school."

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How to Order

Pick up an order form on the Kappa Delta Pi bulletin board ,at one of the tables in Foyle Hall, or email rochelle.kroshus@avila.edu.

The form & payment due by Wednesday, March 11 to the Education Office, Foyle 1010.

Bags will be available for pick up by March 30th.

In This Section

Dave Wilson

In this issue you will find a positively pungent, poignant political party. It all gets started with the standard he said/she said dance between Ben Kopp and Charolette Bishop; this is one mamba you don't want to miss. In light of the importance and relevance of Barack Obama's presidency, occasional promises of change, and ability to seduce a nation, several articles are in his recognition. With his delightful promises to, well, just about everyone, look for the Talon to highlight his failures and positives. In the current political environment there should be plenty of both. As always enjoy the political presentations with a thick skin, because as it turns out people are kind of sensitive and emotional when it comes to the actions and inactions of our government.

Image from treasureoftheworld.com

He Said/She Said: Global Warming

Global Warming or Global Cooling?

Charlotte Bishop

It depends on where you are. In the South, the weather is behaving like ours: freezing one day, sunny and gorgeous the next. Their weather used to be consistent, full of cool days in the winter and boiling in the summer. Rarely did that change until recently, when the South took on the Midwest's legendary weather changes.

Here in the Midwest, we're used to our crazy weather. We understand that sometimes the cold wind blows a little too hard and makes us feel like we're about to lose our extremities. We realize that one day could be gorgeous and the next horrifically biting. And the fact is that we would never wish this insanity on the rest of the world.

Global warming (or cooling, whichever you prefer) is a threat. So far, it has aided Hurricane Katrina and the Greensburg Tornado, as well as throwing weather patterns into terrible disarray. People have lost their homes and their old lives because of it. I think that it turning into a heat wave or the next Ice Age is unlikely, and certainly won't happen in our lifetimes in any case. However, that doesn't mean we should ignore it now.

Whether it should be referred to as global warming or global cooling is not the issue. The issue is: What to do about it, whatever it is?

There are a lot of little things that help, believe it or not. For example – don't use the dishwasher unless there are a lot of dishes to do. Open a window instead of turning on the AC. Turn off the appliances that you're not using. Turn down the thermostat in your hot water heater. Rake your lawn instead of using a leaf blower. Ride the bus or a bike. Bring your own bags to the grocery store.

All of this is easy stuff, and even if you don't believe in global warming/cooling, it can get you some more exercise and even lower your bills. Why not give it a shot?

Global Warming Technically Exists

Ben Kopp

The seas will not boil anytime soon, but the average temperature of Earth is slightly increasing. Just last March, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recorded that the average global surface temperature for the third month beat the heat record—which goes back 129 years—by more than three degrees with most of Asia being eight degrees above the average. The effects of this temperature change are shown in the ice caps, mountains, and snow deficiencies in Kansas City during the winter months.

On the other hand, I believe this fact has been thrown completely out of proportion. Our weather patterns may appear to be going haywire while summers seem hotter and winters seem colder, yet the average temperatures for overall seasons during the past few years have only been slightly elevated. While this marks a shift in how the world works, we will not be burned into Hell because of it. Extra sensitivity to the temperature may be a result of our constant need to have perfect heating and air conditioning for a room to be considered comfortable. Regardless, there is a slight increase in the average temperature of the world, which confirms an existence of global warming; however, it is nothing to sweat about.

Through His Eyes

Charlotte Bishop

Opportunity of a Lifetime

Being an Obama supporter, I would have loved to go to his inauguration, but knew I didn't have the time or the funds. Imagine my surprise when my cousin revealed that one of his extracurricular activity programs was sending him to Washington D.C. for it. No fair.

Corry Wiggins is a senior in high school this year. He is avidly involved in the National Youth Leader's Conference, and it is that program that sent him to D.C. for the January 20th Inauguration of our 44th President. Corry was excited and proud that he got to go, and promised to take lots of pictures for a class presentation. In fact, that was his only homework.

Hearing President Obama speak in person and shaking his hand was a fantastic experience for him. He got to go to the Inaugural Ball and heard guest speakers such as Colin Powell speak. For five days, Corry got to see what Washington was all about.

His favorite part, however, was the Inauguration itself.

"It's history in the making," he says, and he couldn't be more right.

I went to the National Youth Leader's Conference website www.cylc.org/NYLC and found myself very proud of my cousin. The NYLC teaches promising students to lead others throughout their lives. They teach good decision-making and problem-solving skills in the world of politics.

I hope Corry learned some excellent lessons on his trip. Good luck to him in the future.

Bearing Witness to Change (In Four Parts)

J. Anthony Snorgrass

"...these earth-shaking monumental events don't always come with any preamble of their importance and significance... Significance favors the involved."

Living History
True Confessions…..
OK, I missed the March on Washington in 1968 and Dr. King's improvised "I have a dream" speech (too young to recognize its significance and too resource deficit to navigate my way). I also missed Woodstock and its end of an era/start of a new social order symbolism since my parent's thought it much smarter for me to stay home and use my summer job earnings to get ready for my senior year in high school and impending West Point collegiate pursuits (another story for another time). And although television added the fall of the Berlin Wall and the release of Nelson Mandela and his ultimate election as president of South Africa to my wealth of vicarious experiences, much to my chagrin I felt that I had missed out on the first-hand experience of the significant and watershed events that would shape my lifetime.

My Commitment…..
Harboring much disappointment in the constant realization of these forever-lost experiences, I vowed not to miss events that may help shape my life as I know it. The only problem is that these earth-shaking monumental events don't always come with any preamble of their import and significance to the uninvolved passive spectators. Significance favors the involved. So when my son was 5 years of age we participated in the Million Man March held on the National Mall shadowed on the south by the Smithsonian Museums, which serves as the axis connecting the Capital Building and the Lincoln Monument with its reflecting pool (where Dr. King delivered his historic speech) and the other icons including the Thomas Jefferson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, World War II, Korean War Veterans, and the Vietnam Veterans memorials. Significance was in the involvement!

My Application…..
So there was no doubt that I would find my way to attend the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America, having actively supported and participated in his campaign from its onset. There could be no more regal environment or more majestic setting from which to witness his historic Inauguration in person, accompanied by loved ones and millions of others who were sharing this experience. Despite the bone-chilling weather, the overcrowded Metro (subway system), the closed traffic ways, slow security processing, the saturated cell phone signals, the relative inability to find anything (and I mean anything) without an Obama or Biden logo on it, and the high price of hand warmers - the pre-events, the main event, and its aftermath exceeded my expectations for their powerful signal of America's changing social, political, and technological constructs. The experience was all consuming and beckoned with emotion, jubilation, celebration, civility, evangelizing,

A Sea of Supporters onThe Mall

Crowds gather at the Washington Monument

patrioteering, flag waving, and of course commercializing – everywhere. (…..to the novel mind it appeared that our economic woes could be fixed just by the volume of trade associated with the selling of Obama gear alone).

My Awakening…..
But these observations provide only the surface for my much deeper realization – there is no greater sense of empowerment or self-actualization than to bear witness to change, EXCEPT to actually contribute to it, actively take part in it, and to remain an instrument of it! This realization is indeed the sea change that energized the March on Washington, as well as the upending of social dogma by Woodstock.
The fundamental laws of our universe can only be transformed through our individual and collective engagement. I guess that is called HOPE operationalized. To get your very own Obamicon for a bit of post inaugural fun visit http://www.thetalon-online.com.

Always Hope: Student Perspective

Dave Wilson

Barack Obama was poignant is his goal to gain the allure that is considered presidential, his elegant administration of this speech was on par with his standard. In addition, never so elegantly has one man spoken for over twenty minutes and not said anything, which is exactly what was necessary of him.

By using "we the people" in the early stages of his presentation he creates an association with the government, the founding government that exists in our dreams and imagination (He is essentially branding himself right from the beginning). Furthermore, in a brilliant move Obama takes the words of America's beloved George Washington and makes them his own.

"Let it be told to the future world...that in the depth of winter, when nothing but hope and virtue could survive...that the city and the country, alarmed at one common danger, came forth to meet [it]."

If he continues forcing commonalities with the best of America's past than he potentially will find himself as the best part of America's present, producing the end result of a great American future.

In an ill advised tactic Barack Obama is stacking the deck in his favor by saying, "The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace. Yet, every so often the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms." This statement leaves the mind of each listener in charge of deciding what the storms are (Problems facing America), this allows for his minimal success to in turn become a landmark of greatness. However, the intelligence of the American people should see right through that attempt.

The beautiful manner in which he delivered the speech will keep the public instilled in the whirlwind romance with President Obama for today, but tomorrow he has the most important job in the world. The ball is in his hands, the time is off the clock, and he has one free throw to win the game.

As far as my internal feelings about the direct of the country I will say, we are blessed to have our first African American president, but as a very conservative republican I disagree with his blueprint for America.

Never so elegantly has a man spoken for twenty two minutes and not said a word. To begin by saying he was humbled by the task before us, was truly a mistake as it breeds doubt in his abilities. When essentially he meant to express his genuine level of gratitude for the American people, rather than having his current state of overwhelm be magnified.

Weeks have passed since the speech and it looks dim as he clearly has no problem reniging on promises and essentially saying through his actions that the Catholic vote means nothing to him. Such is the way of the norms of Washington, say what you want so you can do whatever you want. I just hope Mitt Romney's economic genuis can fix this mess when he becomes President, as there is always hope.

SPECIAL REPORT

In This Section

Michele L. Watley

In this special section of The Talon, we highlight African American culture in celebration of Black History Month. Members of the Black Student Union submitted articles that they felt best reflected and celebrated African American culture. This section features original poetry from Meika Nwaomah, BSU's Vice President, and by Cecile O'hara, BSU's Treasurer. Marva gives her perspective on 'talking white' and this section also features articles about interracial dating and opening up to new cultures. The section is complete with BSU executive board biographies and information about BSU. We hope you enjoy this special section of the Talon. Please remember that African American history is American history. African American History is everyone's history, everyday.

What is BSU?

Michele Watley

Valuing the worth, dignity, and potential of each human being, diversity and its expression, and the commitment to the continual growth of the whole person are just a few of the values that Avila holds dear. In an effort to uphold these values, students came together to create the Black Student Union (BSU). The BSU is a student organization that devotes itself to the promotion of cultural diversity amongst Avila students. The BSU supports not only the African American Students on campus, but tries to support and educate students of all ethnic backgrounds. Membership in the BSU is open to all students.

2009 has been an eventful year for many African Americans. With the election of the nation's first African American president, a new sense of hope and inspiration has emerged from Americans from all backgrounds. It is this inspiration that is the driving force behind the goals for the BSU during the 2008 – 2009 academic year.

President Obama was blessed with the opportunity to attend Harvard law school. When he graduated with honors, he was offered jobs at some of the biggest law firms in the country. Most college students would not think twice about taking a job offer with a major law firm. Like Obama, many of the members have been blessed with the opportunity to attend a 4–Year University. Like Obama, we are obligated to give back.

Some of our goals include greater community outreach, creating campus awareness of our organization, and internal development. Mentoring young children with the Front Porch Alliance, volunteering with the Kansas City Housing Authority, and leadership meetings are some of the ways we are trying to attain our goals. When a member of the BSU graduates from Avila, that student should be able to draw from her or his experiences with the BSU to excel in whichever career path she or he chooses.

Members of the BSU may work hard, but we also play hard. At least one meeting per month is dedicated to helping members bond through fun events, such as movie nights, and eating out. We are also preparing for the Annual Black Out Party. The BSU is a tight-knit circle of students who enjoy eachother's company. We hope you consider joining us. Our meetings are Thursday nights at 7:30p.m. in the Barefoot Room in Marian Center. We hope to see you there!

A Word from the Black Student Union President

Michele L. Watley

I am a Gemini, born June 12. Some of my interests include art, cooking and cosmetology. I do not like animals but I own a cat that has yet to be named. Even though she does not have a name she does know when I am talking to her. I am not passionate for many things, but I do have a passion for social issues that affect African Americans and women, music, acting, movies, and my family. I hate text messages. I love learning.

On May 16th 2009 I will be joining my fellow Avila Students in the Graduation Commencement Ceremony at 10:30am at the Church of the Resurrection in Overland Park, Kansas. I will be awarded a Bachelors Degree in Communication with an emphasis in Advertising and Public Relations, and a minor in Political Science. My plans after graduation include attending law school on the east coast, Washington D.C. preferably, and pursuing a career as a lobbyist or sports or entertainment agent. I also plan on practicing civil rights law in my free time. Although I love to learn, I have always hated school. It was not until I attended Avila that I learned to appreciate school. The hands on projects I have been given have expanded my horizons and the opportunities that are available to me.

The Black Student Union has also been another platform for me to further enhance skills critical to my future success in the corporate world. As president of the Black Student Union, I am responsible for every aspect of this organization. I act as the face of the BSU, representing the organization at various events on and off campus. I also conduct meetings, organize and publicize events, and collaborate with other campus organizations. I believe that the BSU is necessary to facilitate inclusiveness at Avila. All interested students are welcome to join the BSU and contribute the skills that they offer.

Black Student Union President Executive Board Biographies

Hi Avila University, My name is Meika Rachel Nwaomah. I am a first year student and the vice president of the Black Student Union. I am the youngest of four children of a single Nigerian woman located in North Kansas City, Missouri. I am a Biology and Music Double Major. I want to be a Genetics Counselor and voice teacher to make money on the side. I love to sing, dance, and write to any kind of music.

I chose Avila University because it was close to home and affordable for my family. I have met a lot of very different people with different backgrounds here at Avila. I love to learn about different cultures and ideas. I have became more opened minded to a lot of new experiences. I hope to continue to share and learn from others.

I hope that you can enjoy my poems that I submitted to the newspaper. I also invite anyone and everyone to come out to join or just support Black Student Union events. I hope to continue to share my various talents with everyone on campus so stay tuned.

Cecile O'Hara

Name: Cecile O'Hara
Hometown: Shawnee, KS
Major: Pre-Law /Political Science
Hobbies: Excercising, eating and playing Age of Empires 2
Pet Peeves: People who play Age of Empires 2
Favorite Color: Blue
Favorite Food: Anything I don't have to make myself
My Favorite Dinosaur: I don't really like dinosaurs
Position: BSU Treasurer
Why I joined BSU: It's a great opportunity and first and foremost to help around the community and the people are great!

Ashley Sanford
Secretary

Hi my name is Ashley Sanford and I am a transfer student from Springfield, Mo. I am a Sports Science major and plan on continuing my education after graduation. I am going to get my masters in Athletic Training at Texas Tech. My dream is to work for a professional team and to get there I am willing to work as hard as it takes to make it my reality.

I am the Secretary of BSU and along with that I work with the Avila University Football Team as the Head Football Coach's assistant. Being on the executive board of the Black Student Union was never on my plan but somehow that is where I ended up. As random as it was, I could not be any happier that it happened. I have met a lot of interesting people (to put it in a broad term) and I am looking forward to what we have planned for the community in the months to come.

Black Nation
Meika Nwaomah

Black Nation
It is time
Not only for a change
But for a wake up call
Hello to all
We all should know how to read
How to write and how to speak
For our ancestors would expected by now
That we would have truly overcame somehow
Brothers and Sisters we must learn how

We should know how help one another
How to stick together
It may seem like you can do it on your own
But on your own means you are truly alone
It will be easier for someone to take you down
They just want to see you frown.

So come over and take my hand
And take other hand of one of our black man
As he grabs the hand of lost woman
Until we all fix into a figure as one
And we rise as a strong
Black Nation

Black Student Union Upcoming Events

Front Porch Alliance Youth Mentoring
Every 1st and 3rd Saturday

Afriican Culture Showcase
March 31st 2009

Annual BLACKOUT Party
May 31st 2009

The Black Student Union will host various volunteer events throughout the month of March and April

Please feel free to join us for any of our membership meetings held Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at bsu@avila.edu For more information on our upcoming events, please visit our website at www.avila.edu/stulife/bsu/

Original Poetry
Cecile O'HaraI

On observance of Black History Month I wanted to share this poem that a great teacher of mine once shared with me. The poem is written by Susan Griffin and describes the life of Harriet Tubman, and while the late 1800s may seem like ancient history, it was just over a hundred years ago. It's certainly worth taking a moment to appreciate those who paved the way and to remain vigilant in pursuit of equality for all people.

I like to think of Harriet Tubman.
Harriet Tubman who carried a revolver,
who had a scar on her head from a rock thrown
by a slave-master (because she
talked back), and who

had a ransom on her head
of thousands of dollars and who
was never caught, and who
had no use for the law
when the law was wrong,
who defied the law. I like
to think of her.
I like to think of her especially when I think of the problem of feeding children.

I want them to think about Harriet Tubman,
and remember,
remember she was beat by a white man
and she lived
and she lived to redress her grievances,

and she lived in swamps
and wore the clothes of a man
bringing hundreds of fugitives from

slavery, and was never caught,
and led an army,
and won a battle,
and defied the laws
because the laws were wrong, I want men
to take us seriously I am tired wanting them to think
about right and wrong.
I want them to fear.
I want them to feel fear now
as I have felt suffering in the womb, and
I want them
to know
that there is always a time
there is always a time to make right
what is wrong,
there is always a time
for retribution
and that time
is beginning.

10 Little Known Black History Facts

From www.huntsvilleurbannetwork.com

1. In 1770, Crispus Attucks, whose father was African and mother was a Nantucket Indian, became the first casualty of the American Revolution when he was shot and killed in what became known as the Boston Massacre.

2. The largest woman's organization happens to be the National Council of Negro Women.

3. Xavier University, a historically black college in Louisiana, has one of the highest success rates in the country getting their graduates into medical school.

4. Benjamin Bradley, a slave, was employed at a printing office and later at the Annapolis Naval Academy. In the 1840s he developed a steam engine for a war ship. Unable to patent his work, he sold it and used the proceeds to purchase his freedom.

5 .Frank Wills, a Black security guard, discovered President Nixon's cover-up which later caused his resignation as President of the United States. Despite Wills' discovery he struggled to find work for the rest of his life.

6. In 1954, with Barbara Jordan as the leader, the all-Black Texas Southern University debate team stunned and beat the Harvard debate tea

7. Alfred L. Cralle invented the ice cream scooper. His invention was patented on February 2, 1897.

8. A.W. Martin is the African American inventor that created the door lock.

9. Marie V. Brittan Brown, a female African American inventor, designed a security system which was patented on December 2, 1969.

10. Carter G. Woodson organized the first Negro History Week Celebration on the second week of February in 1926. The week celebration eventually became a month long celebration which is now known as Black History Month

Bonus Fact:

In 1959, Dr. William C. Davis, invented instant mashed potatoes. Not too surprisingly, he invented them while doing research on potatoes at the University of Idaho

Talking White While Being Black
By Marva Moore

Every since middle school people have referred to the way I speak as "talking white." Since then, I have always wondered what that really means. How can a person "talk white" and, what is someone implying when they say you "talk white?" Are they trying to say that because I am an African American, I cannot speak well?

The other day my professor made a comment without even realizing what he said. He said, "Condoleezza Rice is the whitest sounding African American he's ever seen." This made me think two things. First, what is his overall opinion of African Americans in general? The second, why is it that when African Americans speak well it's called "talking white?" Not every African American speaks slang or Ebonics.

In December of 1996 the Oakland, California, school boards voted to recognize Ebonics, sometimes referred to as Black English, as the primary language of many African American students and use it as a starting point to teaching standard English. This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard. How is teaching a class in Ebonics supposed to help African Americans in the future? By doing this, the school board is not helping, and just because some African Americans use Ebonics does not mean that we all do. I wonder how they went about placing students in class. Did they just place every African American in the same class with the assumption that no African American knows proper English?

It's clear to me that the perception of African Americans need to change. There are many of us that speak well, so every African American should not be treated as if we cannot hold a proper conversation. Every old stereotype about African Americans needs to be thrown out the window, its time to start over new, its time for change.

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